

## Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06

SP-02 SS-15 STR-05 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 /106 W

-----120396 142106Z /75

R 141515Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4639

INFO: AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO 8844

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRASILIA 9335

EO 11652 NA

TAGS TECH ENRG BR

SUBJECT: FIRE AT ANGRA I CONSTRUCTION SITE

REF: (A) BRASILIA 9086, (B) RIO 5164

1. CONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO PREPARED FOLLOWING MESSAGE : (A)

CONGEN OFFICERS HAVE HAD SEVERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH SENIOR WESTINGHOUSE EXECUTIVES REGARDING EXTENT OF DAMAGES TO EQUIPMENT RESULTING FROM OCTOBER 31 FIRE (REFTELS). PRESS ESTIMATES OF ACTUAL LOSSES OF ABOUT \$5 MILLION ARE SAID TO BE CORRECT. ON THE OTHER HAND, PRESS SPECULATION ABOUT TIME NEEDED TO OBTAIN REPLACEMENTS IS STATED TO BE WHOLLY WITHOUT FOUNDATION. EQUIPMENT LOST RANGES FROM CONTROLS AND MONITORING INSTRUMENTATION TO BASIC MECHANICALS SUCH AS PUMPS AND VALVES. THESE EXECUTIVES SAY THAT MUCH OF THIS MATERIAL CAN PROBABLY BE OBTAINED FROM EXISTING STOCKS ELSEWHERE (AS IN REF A), BUT THAT THERE WAS CONCERN THAT SOME MATERIAL WOULD HAVE TO BE SPECIALLY FABRICATED, PRODUCING BOTTLENECKS IN FINAL TWELVE MONTHS OF CONSTRUCTION. IN SHORT, SEVERAL MONTHS' DELAY IN THE ORIGINAL DECEMBER 1978 START-UP ARE QUITE LIKELY.

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(B) WESTINGHOUSE OFFICIALS ALSO TOLD US THAT ANGRA DOS REIS POLICE OFFICIALS ARE INVESTIGATING POSSIBILITY OF "SABOTAGE" IN CONNECTION WITH FIRRE. SEVERAL MIDDLE-LEVEL WESTINGHOUSE EMPLOYEES WERE SUMMONED TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS ON NOVEMBER 7 TO GIVE DEPOSITIONS ON THEIR OBSERVATIONS ON OCT. 31. THEY WERE ACCOMPANIED BY LOCAL WESTINGHOUSE ATTORNEYS, AND WERE NOT DETAINED.

2. WESTINGHOUSE PLACED ADVERTISEMENT IN JORNAL DO BRASIL OF NOV. 10, TO INFORM PUBLIC THAT:

A. PRESS STORIES ON FIRE WERE NOT AUTHORIZED BY WESTINGHOUSE NOR BASED ON INFO FROM WESTINGHOUSE3

B. CAUSES OF FIRE ARE UNKNOWN AND UNDER STUDY. SPECULATION IS PREMATURE. FURNAS HAS BEEN RESOLVING ALL SECURITY/SAFETY QUESTIONS DURING CONSTRUCTION PERIOD TO WESTINGHOUSE SATISFACTION.

C. WESTINGHOUSE/FURNAS RELATIONS, AT ALL LEVELS, ALWAYS HAVE BEEN AND CONTINUE TO BE EXCELLENT.

D. AT FURNAS REQUEST, WESTINGHOUSE HAS ALREADY BEGAN TO SUBSTITUTE FOR DAMAGED EQUIPMENT, TO REDUCE IMPACT OF ACCIDENT AND ASSURE COMPLETION OF PROJECT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. EMBASSY COMMENTS: DEPARTMENT SHOULD NOTE THAT "DECEMBER 1978 START-UP" REFERS TO FULL POWER OPERATION ON GRID, NOT TO REACTOR NSSS PRESSURE AND PRESSURE-TEMPERATURE TESTS, CORE LOADING, CRITICALITY, OR CRITICALITY TO FULL POWER TESTING PERIODS. WE BELIEVE IT IS WESTINGHOUSE'S RESPONSIBILITY TO DETERMINE FUEL-SHIPMENT TECHNICAL SCHEDULE AND TO DECIDE WHETHER THIS SCHEDULE SHOULD BE OR COULD BE ALTERED BY EFFECTS OF FIRE OR OTHER SITUATIONS AT SITE. WE CAUTION ALL PARTIES ABOUT DANGER OF HASTY OR ILL-INFORMED CONCLUSIONS CONCERNING POSSIBLE CHANGES IN ANGRA I TIMETABLE (INCLUDING OBSERVATIONS WHICH MIGHT REACH BRAZILIANS).  
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END COMMENT.  
CRIMMINS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 BRASILIA 9086, 77 RIO DE JANEIRO 5164  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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